



# 2007 Virginia Outdoors Plan

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*A plan for meeting Virginia's outdoor recreation,  
land conservation and open space needs*

**Commonwealth of Virginia  
Department of Conservation and Recreation**

**Director  
Joseph H. Maroon**

The Department of Conservation and Recreation would like to thank the citizens of Virginia, private and public agencies and organizations for participating and partnering to develop the 2007 Virginia Outdoors Plan. The Planning District Commissions are recognized for their key role in partnering to facilitate citizen input, recommendations and review for each of the recreational regions. The direction and insight of the Technical Advisory Committee is recognized and appreciated. The recommendations presented in this plan can only be implemented through these continued partnerships.

John R. Davy, Division Director  
Planning and Recreation Resources

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Mr. Sandy Rives, National Park Service, Commissioner for Virginia Parks

Mr. Allen Turnbull, BikeWalk Virginia

Mr. Bill Wasserman, The Land Trust for Southwest Virginia



### **It all began here.**

Four hundred years ago, the first English-speaking settlers arrived on these shores determined to make a new life in a new world. They began an interaction between immigrants and natives and Europeans and wild lands never seen before on this continent. The relationship between those early settlers, and all those who followed and the lands and waters of Virginia has shaped this Commonwealth into the unique place it is today.

Virginia's diversity of landscapes shaped the way generations of Virginians have lived their lives. Her rivers, moderate climate and central location helped shape our culture, land use patterns, transportation routes and recreational pursuits. As the industrial revolution changed the face of a nation, a Virginian's invention of the reaper changed the face of agriculture. A rich Bay spawned a robust seafood industry supported by a culture of watermen. A deep harbor in Hampton Roads made Virginia a worldwide port of call.

Our relationship with the land that has sustained us is more complicated today. Every census brings news that a number of Virginia's localities are among the fastest growing in the nation. The forests and farms that have historically served as the foundation of our economy are increasingly under pressure.

As we celebrate 400 years of Virginia, we should continue to examine our relationship with our land and plan for our future together. The 2007 Virginia Outdoors Plan is a key resource for such an examination. It includes information on the current state of Virginia's outdoors as well as extensive findings and recommendations based on broad-based public review and comment.

The VOP is a guide for the public and private sectors in meeting Virginia's outdoor recreation, conservation and open space needs. Implementation will depend on partnerships and actions by all levels of government and the private sector.

As we begin our next 400 years, this document can serve as the foundation for our future plans.